

the SPACE



A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER PRODUCED BY NEILSTON DEVELOPMENT TRUST No 20 | Nov/Dec 2013

Working together to improve our village

The BIG Neilston TIDY UP

Sat 26th Oct : 11am-1pm



One thing we always hear when we are out and about is how proud Neilston residents are of their village. There's energy and enthusiasm out there; people want to make a difference in their own community .

So, NDT has been working with Neilston Community Council, Hillside Tenants and Residents, Neilston Community Repair and East Renfrewshire Council to name but a few, to create an opportunity for local people to come together and do just that.

On **Saturday 26th October 2013** we are asking residents to get involved in The Neilston Big Tidy Up. We will be doing a litter pick around the village centre and planting some bulbs at Pig Square – all with the aim of giving our village a bit of a face-lift for Autumn.

The base for the day will be the Bank – and in addition to getting our litter pickers and bulb planters all kitted up, we will be hosting a produce swap and providing some delicious free soup and home baking. The Neilston Ukulele Group will also be making an appearance.

Look out for the very special **Neilston Chutney Cart**, which will be doing the rounds of the village offering a free taste of some scrumptious local chutneys made as part of our recent Chutney workshop at the Bank.

NEILSTON BIG TIDY UP SCHEDULE

LITTER PICKING

Assemble at the Bank at 11am to be assigned to a litter pick squad. All equipment will be provided.

BULB PLANTING

11am – 1pm at Pig Square.

NEILSTON PRODUCE SWAP

11am – 1pm. If you have any harvested garden produce, seeds (bought or picked), plant cuttings, jams, chutneys, crafts, baking – basically anything you have made or grown yourself, bring it along and swap it for something someone else has made themselves

Also at the Bank – information stands on other ways you can get involved in your community!

For the full schedule and updates visit our website, Facebook or Twitter.

UMUGANDA!

That one got you wondering! We heard recently from a young Neilston resident who had been working in an orphanage in Rwanda. Her enthusiasm for the country is summed up in this extract from the Washington Post. *"The last Saturday morning of each month, bus service is suspended and*

businesses close. All citizens, irrespective of class, gender and including the president himself, sweep the area in front of their homes. The tradition is called Umuganda, and means, "We work together."

So we're not exactly counting on Mr Salmond turning up, but if Rwanda can do it, why can't we?

Sign up to our mailing list to receive regular updates at <http://ow.ly/hvS5D>



THE BANK ACCOUNT

BANK CAFE RELAUNCH

After the summer break the café has reopened with an affordable menu including the old favourites with a few delicious additions.

A weekly special will keep the taste buds tantalised and our delightful volunteers are now assisted by new staff Lynn and Shannon.

THE CAFE OPENING HOURS
Tuesday-Friday 10.30am-3pm

Our bright, warm Cafe space is ideal for your child's party!

We offer competitive rates, easy access and a warm welcome. Choose from our party menu or self-cater, and we'll arrange the room as you like.

Meeting rooms and hot-desking also available.

Call Gillian to discuss on 0141 561 1201.



EAST RENFREWSHIRE FOODBANK

NDT is now accepting donations for East Renfrewshire Foodbank. Tinned and dried goods, toiletries and cleaning products are all welcome and can be dropped off at the Bank; Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm and at the weekend by arrangement.

We are also a referring agency so if you, or someone you know, is left in a position where some immediate support with food is needed, feel free to drop in or ring us on 0141 561 1201.



Thanks to Neilston Parish Church, who have donated half of their harvest festival contributions to the Food Bank, with the other half going to Glasgow City Mission.

NEILSTON UKULELE GROUP

A new class for beginners starts fortnightly from Wednesday 31st October 7pm-8pm.

No musical reading skills required. Instruments provided.

£5 adults; £3 under 16s.

NEW RECRUIT TO THE BANK TEAM

Shannon MacGregor is one of the newest faces you'll see at The Bank as part of our café team.

Having started just recently, she said that she has already learned how to be part of a working team and what she enjoys is learning new things every day. Aside from all she would learn, another thing that drew her to joining us at NDT was the fact that it was local (Shannon lives just round the corner from the Bank - you can't get more local than that!).

Shannon has joined NDT under the Community Jobs Scotland scheme, the key purpose of which is to support young people into sustainable employment through providing meaningful paid work experience in the Third Sector.

Welcome, Shannon - great to have another bright young thing around the place!



Welcome to Shannon

THE BIKE HUB

A great first season of achievements at the Bike Hub! 26 hires; 48 repairs; a great bike maintenance training programme; new found confidence for 4 lapsed adult cyclists; 1 complete beginner now a proud peddler.

Along with a summer of monthly led rides round the village, many of our fledgling cyclists joined up with East Ren Sustrans Volunteers (the regional branch of the national cycling campaigners) on August 10th for a grand tour round the Pad and Neilstonside - all led and supported by our cycling volunteers, mechanics and cycle leaders (with thanks to Cycling Scotland and the Bike Club Scotland). Phew!

In response to demand, two of our volunteers are about to be trained as qualified mechanics to help us better process the volume of repair work and to share the skills with the community; and we'll shortly have another trained cycle leader to join our team of 8.



Sharing the mysterious art of puncture repairs



...now we know what keeps them going!

Made it! They seem cheery enough!

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Six members of the Gardening Group recently took the train to Pollokshields to find out more about The Hidden Gardens at the Tramway, looking for inspiration and advice to bring back to Neilston.

The Hidden Gardens is an award-winning public greenspace and community development organisation located in one of Scotland's most diverse communities. It promotes understanding between people of all cultures, faiths and backgrounds. In addition to being a beautiful space where people can relax, it is a place of learning and exchange, where people can come together and share stories and skills. 2013 is a very special year for The Hidden Gardens as they are celebrating ten flourishing years.

Despite the persistent rain, spirits were not dampened and the staff and volunteers gave their time generously to give a guided tour of the extensive gardens and to share some of their experience in setting it up. It was a very enthused group of gardeners that took the return journey to Neilston, discussing plans for composting, wildflower patches and a Bank Café herb garden. We're looking forward to a blooming good growing season in 2014 – new members always welcome.



Hidden Gardens - gorgeous even in the rain

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT! (SORT OF..)



If Subbuteo's your thing..

Always wanted to start a chess group, or a local film club? Maybe you are mad keen on starting a baking group, or a conversational French class?

If so, we want to hear from you. Here at the Bank we are keen to support you make your ideas for activities and events become a reality. It can sometimes be daunting to have to think of the practicalities and financial aspects of making this possible.

So, if you're keen to get started with an idea for an activity you think would benefit the local community, we can support you by offering free space at the Bank to try it out, and support with thinking through how it might work. We can also help with marketing support.

SNIPPETS



Kingston playing fields

WHAT'S GOING ON AT KINGSTON?

Do not fear - nothing dreadful's happening. It's just ERC drainage works on the playing fields. Works for the formation of a car park at the station end of the park are scheduled to commence at the end of October and are independent of discussions about Culture and Leisure facilities which will take place through the Charter process.

20 ISSUES AND COUNTING.....

The action-packed publication of *The Space* has been coming through your doors since August 2004, (at that point under the Space to Live banner). Since then we've added website, Facebook and Twitter to our media empire, and goodness knows how we'll be communicating in 10 years time.



First to latest edition of the Space

When all's said and done, people sharing points of view in a constructive way is always the best way to communicate.

Meanwhile, we have a new young recruit to the editorial team - but you can check that out next issue!

NEILSTON LEISURE CENTRE RE-OPENS

HOORAY! Neilston Leisure Centre re-opens 21st October. Celebratory offers!

All customers will be able to swim **FREE** during public swimming times from Monday 21st October to Sunday 27th October 2013.

The Fun Session on Friday 25th October will also be **FREE** to our younger customers. For customers who have a Season or Monthly swim pass, the expiry date will be extended for a week.

The swimming lesson programme at Neilston Leisure Centre will commence week beginning 21st October. To reserve a place contact Andrew Wishart at 0141 577 4833 or andrew.wishart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk.

CHARTER CHATTER

Summer's come and gone and everyone's settling into their clubs, hubs and ... (pubs?). So it's back into gear with the Charter process.

CHARTER ADVISORY GROUP

This new kid on the block will have its first meeting soon. It's part of the new Charter structure developed by a working group drawn from the Town Team and supported by ERC's community planning staff. The structure, agreed at a meeting of the Town Team in June, has NDT leading on the delivery of the Charter, working with an Advisory Group composed of a wide range of community representation. The Advisory Group's role will be to provide feedback and advice on the various proposals coming up from the Working Groups

WORKING GROUPS

The Working Groups will get down to more detailed work on priority themes (see below) and will provide the opportunity for all relevant points of view to be considered and resolved.

If this sounds a bit heavy going, we don't think it will be. It's great that there is now a proper, transparent and accountable way of taking the Charter forward. It will be subject to review, so we can see what works and what doesn't, and the NDT website, Facebook, newsletter, etc will keep you up to date. As for the **Town Team**, with Charter structure now in place, it too will evolve into a range of opportunities and formats for ensuring people to stay well informed and engaged in ways that are meaningful, enjoyable and productive.

THEMES

Thanks to all who completed the survey circulated with the last newsletter and elsewhere. Around 100 responses were received, ranking themes, but also providing very helpful comments on every aspect of the village environment. You can read these on the website. Priority themes emerged as **Village Centre, Community & Leisure Facilities** and **Economy & Sustainability**. Interestingly, the **People** box got a lot of ticks, and reminds us that everything we do must always be measured by what it delivers for the people of Neilston.



What's this? We're fed up of pics of the Charter and thought you would be too. Here are some happy summer snaps instead.

LEISURE CENTRE PUBLIC MEETING

GLEN HALLS 7PM WEDNESDAY 30 OCTOBER

An option appraisal has been carried out on behalf of East Renfrewshire Council, focussing on the longer term options for the refurbishment of Neilston Leisure Centre.

Dave McHendry from Knight Kavanagh and Page has scheduled a public meeting to discuss the findings of the study.



NEILSTON DEVELOPMENT TRUST
www.neilstontrust.co.uk

The Bank, 84 Main Street, Neilston G78 3EA T: 0141 561 1201 E: admin@neilstontrust.co.uk W: www.neilstontrust.co.uk

Neilston Development Trust, a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland (no. SC 299623). Recognised as a charity (SC 037625). Registered office: 84 Main Street, Neilston, G78 3EA



Volunteer Friendly Award



LOTTERY FUNDED



BIG LOTTERY FUND



EAST RENFREWSHIRE
COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CARE
PARTNERSHIP